

Love Blooms

Right after I got engaged a few years ago, I went to buy a dozen roses for my fiancé for Valentine's Day. I did not realize how expensive this gesture would be. Not being able to afford my gift of choice, I decided to buy a dozen packets of seeds so that my fiancé could grow her own flowers. She enjoyed the flowers for several months after Valentine's Day and now expects seeds every year from her cherub boy.

Valentine Treasure

My favorite valentine story happened about two years ago. My five-year-old daughter came home from kindergarten saying she hadn't gotten me anything for "LOVE" day. I laughed and told her not to worry about it. About an hour later she came indoors and handed me a rock. I said what is this. She told me that it was my present. I took a good look at this rock and saw that she had used fingernail polish and created a beautiful heart with the words "I luv you" on it. I treasure that rock and will forever. That is my most precious valentine gift ever.

Full of Hearts

Last year, I was a little short on cash, so I had to think of something cheap to get me past the 14th. Just as I was becoming desperate, I thought of the perfect gift. I bought two sheets of red construction paper and cut them into little hearts. Then I made a hearts and cupids label for a Mason jar. On each heart I wrote down something that I loved about my fiancé and put it in the jar. A little ribbon and it was the best gift I could have gotten anywhere.

Finer Things in Life

When my husband and I first started dating, we talked about everything, as most new couples do. I told him that I was not a materialistic person at all and that I enjoyed the simpler things in life. I told him that sometimes when people do off the wall things, it means more. I had commented that I would rather have ravioli by candlelight as opposed to a huge expensive meal, because something like that actually requires thought. Well, on our first Valentine's together in '97, he made reservations at Applebee's, a restaurant here. After being seated and ordering our drinks, we were sitting there talking, and our waitress came out she was carrying a tray that had two cans and two bowls of Chef Boyardee Ravioli!! :) It was so funny that everyone was staring at us, but we didn't care. He had called ahead and talked the staff there into doing this for him. It was the greatest Valentine's present ever!

Leave Something Behind

Last Valentine's I bought several bags of red and silver Hershey's kisses. I left them in a trail throughout the apartment for my husband to follow. They led him to a note saying, "Just wanted to kiss the ground you walk on." After he figured out that I didn't just throw candy on the floor and leave it, he loved the idea.

Express Yourself

I like to do things differently every year for Valentine's Day. I'm not a fan of flowers, candy, or bears. So one year for my husband, I went and got a couple of sheets of red, pink, and white poster board. I wrote out different sayings on each one: Will You Be Mine, Scott?, Hugs and Kisses, and Happy Valentine's Day! I got up real early on Valentine's Day and put a few signs up in our yard with stakes and balloons. I nailed a few around the neighborhood and then took a few up on the highway. My husband loved it. There were many people who saw them and said something to him about them. He loved it!

Express Yourself II

Last valentine's day I cut about fifty red, pink, and white hearts out of construction paper and wrote little sayings on each one. Then while my husband was away at work, I taped them all over our room. I left a plate of heart shaped sugar cookies tied to a balloon on our bed. I have never seen him so happy!

Little Red Corvette

I met my husband two weeks before Valentine's Day. I was seventeen and in love with Corvettes. I told him one day in jest that I would forever love the man that bought me a Corvette and on Valentine's Day that year and every year since, I get a new Hot Wheels Corvette. It's eleven years later.

14 Days of ...

Having a special ed child and twins was making it harder and harder to spend some quality time with my husband. In light of this, I decided the night before February 1st that what I needed was a whole new way of looking at the holiday. The Fourteen Days of Valentine's was what I came up with.

- February 1st: Make a Candlelight Dinner
- 2nd- Send a Singing Telegram to Work
- 3rd: Put a Valentine's Bear in His Truck
- 4th: Run a Bath Complete with Bubbles
- 5th: Send Him Flowers to Work
- 6th: Hire Sitter for Dinner Out
- 7th: Put Love Note on Bathroom Mirror
- 8th: Hire sitter and Take a Walk near a Lake
- 9th: Take Baked Goods to Work for Him and His Co-workers
- 10th: Give Him a Heart Filled with Sweets
- 11th: Watch a Movie Together and Cuddle
- 12th: Hide a Love Note in His Lunch Box
- 13th: Give Him a Massage
- 14th: Take the "Kisses" Tags Out of a Bag of Hershey's Kisses and Place Them in a Box. (You can put the candy in a bowl to enjoy together. Wrap the box in Valentine's paper and give it to him with this note: For every ticket within you, are entitled to one kiss . . . and if you're really good, I'll throw in a hug.)

My husband really appreciated the lengths I went to, to make our Valentine's really enjoyable.